

ruler of the world; and profess him or themselves obliged to live quietly under the civil government, shall be in any case molested or prejudiced in his or their person or estate, because of his or their conscientious persuasion or practice."

Going back to our heritage, that this country was based on these principles, taught in the Bible, discussed by our Founders, and made the basis of our beliefs in religious freedom, Thomas Jefferson said: "God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift of God? That they are not to be violated, but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever."

And it ought to cause every American to tremble when they think of the injustice we're allowing to be perpetuated on our citizens around the world. It ought to break the hearts and minds and consciences of everyone.

A United States President said these words, referred to a Mr. Levi, a Galveston, Texas lawyer and a president of the National B'nai Brith, drafted President Theodore Roosevelt a telegram denouncing a Russian pogrom in 1903. The Czar of Russia was so stung by Roosevelt's message that he formally refused to accept it. Some Americans complained that Roosevelt had gone too far. He replied that there were crimes so monstrous that the American conscience had to assert itself. And there still are.

"No one is a better witness to the transience of tyranny than the children of Abraham. Forty centuries ago, the Jewish people were entrusted with a truth more enduring than any power of man. In the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'This shall be my covenant with them, said the Lord: My spirit which is upon you, and the words which I have placed in your mouth, shall not be absent from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your children, nor from the mouth of your children's children, said the Lord from now for all time.'

'It is not an accident that freedom of religion is one of the central freedoms in our Bill of Rights. It is the first freedom of the human soul: the right to speak the words that God places in our mouths. We must stand for that freedom in our country. We must speak for that freedom in the world.'

Could the current administration and President dare to do any less than this President that is so reviled in this administration, President George W. Bush?

I would like to just finish with one other thought, and that was what was related to have happened in Iraq after United States troops liberated Iraq, not for any purpose other than to liberate and to free the people there, and

to assure us that they would not be a threat to their neighbors or the rest of the world.

President Bush appointed a retired general named Jay Garner. I had heard the story relayed before and I called him this evening to ask if I could retell it here.

He was in charge of looking about, talking to people all around Iraq, and seeing what kind of government would be best suited for Iraq so that we could help the Iraqi people establish a nation of strength and a representative, hopefully, a representative government. And he talked to people around the country. And over and over, people kept referring him to this huge man, a Shiia, a cleric, who wore the black turban, the black robes, and was a descendant, apparently, of Mohammed. And everyone kept telling him he had to talk to this man because everyone looked to him for insight, for words of wisdom.

And so eventually General Garner went, made an appointment, visited with him. He had a number of people with him, including a reporter. He was often a freelance report, but at this point a reporter for Time magazine.

And apparently this cleric spoke very good English, but he said he'd like to tell in his own language what should be done. And he talked for quite some time in his language. Everything was recorded.

And then he said, let me tell you in a nutshell what I've said. We need a constitutional process, perhaps like yours in the United States, where we create a constitution. But it must be written by Iraqis. The government must be of Iraqis. And it must be based on the lessons of Jesus Christ and bring all the nation together.

General Garner said when he left that interview with the people in the entourage, he asked the others, did everybody hear what I just think I heard? And they said, yes. Could you believe he said you needed a constitution based on the teachings of Jesus Christ?

And he asked the reporter from Time, are you going to put that in the story? He said, no one would believe that.

But when you think about the wisdom of this great Shiia cleric, apparently, Shari'ah law does not allow for freedom of religion and worship when it's considered in context too often. That's the way it's interpreted. It's only the teachings of Jesus that allow for a constitution that allow for freedom of worship. Whether you're Muslim, whether you're following the teachings of Mohammed or Jesus or Moses, it's only those teachings that give us the kind of Constitution we have.

But since we have that Constitution, and we have been given the foresight by our Founders of what is required to do justice, to love mercy, we can do

nothing less than what my friend from Virginia has indicated. We must stand for those who seek to worship as the directives of their heart lead them.

And I thank my friend so much for the very touching time he has spent here on the floor. And I hope and pray that this administration will take those words to heart. I thank my friend.

Mr. WOLF. I thank the gentleman.

And with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DOYLE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of illness.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today after 1:45 p.m. on account of medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BRIGHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SABLAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, July 29.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, July 26, 27, 28, and 29.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, July 29.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, July 29.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PUTNAM, for 5 minutes, July 27 and 28.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1376. An act to restore immunization and sibling age exemptions for children adopted by United States citizens under the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption to allow their admission into the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.